

ANTI-SLAVERY REPORTER: [SUPPLEMENT].

THE TWENTIETH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BRITISH AND FOREIGN ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY.

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REPORT.

YOUR Committee, in submitting their Report for the year 1858-59, embracing a general though necessarily but a succinct review of the principal events which have transpired since they last addressed you, desire to take a hopeful view of the prospects of the anti-slavery cause, though they are not insensible to the gravity of the circumstances which, during the past year, have occasionally inspired many of their friends with anxiety, and even with apprehension. If, however, on the one hand, the course taken by the opponents of freedom, and the partial success which has attended their efforts, are to be deplored, on the other there is reason to rejoice in the fact that these efforts have awakened the friends of emancipation to a sense of the danger which threatens their work, and elicited an expression of opinion so unanimous and decided in favour of immediate counter-active measures, as to leave no doubt in the minds of your Committee of their success, should it be found indispensable to recur to them.

THE SLAVE-TRADE.

Your Committee hoped to lay before you this year a summary of the contents of the Slave-trade Papers for 1857 and 1858. They have already had to comment upon the great public inconvenience arising from the non-presentation of these documents until the information they embody is practically valueless.

The annual reports of Her Majesty's Consuls and Slave-trade Commissioners are brought down to the end of each year, but the Blue-books for 1858, delivered in 1859, relate only to the transactions of 1857, although there is no valid reason why the

Slave-trade Reports, to the close of every year, should not be ready for public use when Parliament meets. Last Session, Lord Brougham—to whom this matter was submitted—obtained from the Earl of Malmesbury a promise that the delay complained of should be avoided in future, but instead of an improvement there has been actual retrogression, for the Slave-trade Papers for the sessional year 1858 were not presented until the commencement of the present one. It remains, therefore, for your Committee to make it the subject of a substantive motion through a member of either house, with a view to the adoption of some general rule respecting their production.

WEST AFRICA.—The continued shipments of slaves from the West Coast of Africa, to supply the Cuban market, furnishes a striking proof of the soundness of the principle laid down in the constitution of your Society, that “so long as Slavery exists there is no reasonable hope of the suppression of the slave-trade.” It was alleged that the traffic had greatly diminished since the demand for palm-oil and other commodities had augmented, and your Committee were encouraged to believe that this favourable change would continue to develop itself until legitimate industry and commerce had wholly superseded the odious slave-trade. It is, however, most deeply to be deplored, that while what may, for distinction's sake, be called the regular traffic in negro slaves, did really experience a check, a trade in them sprang up almost simultaneously in another form, which threatens to baffle all attempts to suppress it. Your Committee refer to the nefarious transactions of the agents of the French Government at various places along the coast, resulting in the purchase

of some thousands of slaves out of the barracoons, at so many dollars per head, and transported in French vessels, specially chartered, to the colonies of France. It must be obvious, that so long as opportunities are afforded to the native slave-dealers of disposing of their human merchandize without risk, which this system of so-called immigration presents, the regular slave-trade will not be attempted to any great extent, though the number of human beings shipped may be augmented. It is, however, encouraging to learn that legitimate commerce, wherever it obtains a footing, does really undermine the slave-trade; and inasmuch as it is asserted by the senior officers commanding on the station, "that ninty-nine out of every hundred slaves taken from the coast of Africa owe their transportation to the protection of the United States' Flag," it is to be hoped that with the co-operation of the American Government, the foreign branch of the traffic may be checked. As regards the suppression of the commerce in "immigrants," the prospect is less hopeful, though something is expected from the remonstrances and representations which have been made to the French Government by the British Secretary for Foreign Affairs.

EAST AFRICA.—Commodore Trotter, commanding upon this station, states that he "has reason to believe no slaver has been fitted on the East coast, or taken away slaves round the Cape of Good Hope, for the last three years or more." This sanguine statement, however, is contradicted by Rear-Admiral Sir F. Grey, who gives information to the Admiralty of several American vessels having touched at D'Urban, the chief port of Natal, and at Delagoa Bay, which were equipped for the slave-trade, and who states that the traffic in slaves from the Southern parts of the East coast had been carried on with impunity for the last three or four years. Upwards of 2000 slaves are known to have been carried away during the year 1857. The vessels engaged in the traffic were towed out of the harbour of Havana in open day. In addition to those who have been removed in the regular slavers, nearly 17,000 negroes had been purchased by the French, of the Arab chiefs of the Comoro Islands, at Zanzibar, Angoxa, and Madagascar, to be conveyed to Bourbon and elsewhere—but principally to Bourbon—as immigrant labourers. This large number had been obtained since 1852. Mr. Sunley, British Vice-Consul at the Comoro Islands, admits that the condition of the negro in Bourbon may be ameliorated, but as on the coast he is an article of merchandize, fresh stock is sought to replace those who are sold; and whatever regulations the French Government may make for obtaining Africans as labourers, it is impossible, under existing circumstances, to get them without using means that are objectionable.

BRAZIL.—Your Committee have much satisfaction in recording, that notwithstanding the high price of slaves, no importations have taken place in any of the Brazilian ports, or been attempted. The Government is constantly on the watch, and gives evidence of its anxious solicitation to observe its treaties with this country.

Your Committee submit that the time has arrived when steps might be taken to induce the British Government to repeal the Act of 1845, known as the Brazilian Act. Such a measure would be only a graceful recognition of the sincerity of the efforts of Brazil to suppress the slave-trade, a timely concession to the wishes of the Brazilian nation, whose feelings are constantly outraged by its existence, and a courtesy to an old and a faithful ally, who is also one of our most valuable commercial connections.

CUBA.—Your Committee cannot refrain from commenting upon the anomalous fact, that whilst a measure like the Act of 1845 has been enforced against Brazil, which has—at least of late years—given the best proof of its good faith in giving effect to its slave-trade treaties with this country, Spain has been permitted to prosecute the slave-trade to Cuba almost with impunity. It is wearying to have constantly to record, upon the authority of Her Majesty's Commissioners, that the slave-trade to Cuba does not diminish. In 1857, ten thousand four hundred and thirty-six negroes—according to the official returns—were landed in that island. This fact is a startling commentary upon the reports of the naval commanders on the West and East-African coasts, to the effect that the regular traffic in slaves from thence has almost entirely ceased, and shews how little dependence is to be placed upon the statements made, even upon authority. Yet large as this number is, it does not represent the whole. The British Commissioners cannot know of every landing that is effected, and they give their evidence with reservations which leave no doubt in the mind of your Committee that the number of negroes disembarked every year, considerably exceeds that which the Commissioners report. They themselves aver that "the cunning and secrecy which is now observed with regard to this detestable traffic are such as to render it exceedingly difficult to obtain any information at all of a reliable nature." They further state, that, "during the last nine months the traffic has notoriously increased, and the audacity of the slave-traders has reached its climax, by their trying to introduce Bozals into the very port of Havana," adding that they "entirely deny the possibility of checking the slave-trade if the inferior authorities would only honestly do their duty." Yet when such facts as these are stated, it is announced that fewer negroes by some thousands were introduced in 1857 than

their own reports shew to have been landed in antecedent years, when they declared the traffic to be on the decline. Your Committee submit they are justified in calling in question the accuracy of any official report on this subject from Cuba. These facts also tend to shew how useless is the presence of armed cruisers on the African coast, as a means of preventing the shipment of slaves. Whilst, however, commenting upon the extraordinary activity of the slave-trade to Cuba, your Committee must not omit to record, that out of 10,436 slaves landed in that island in 1857, 2704 were captured by the authorities. It may be added that these captures appear to have been effected because the authorities could not do otherwise without exposing themselves to prosecution, and therefore no large amount of credit is due to them for vigilance. Indeed, it is admitted on all hands, that the continuance of the traffic is owing wholly to the wilful connivance of the local authorities, without exception. The true remedy for this state of things is for the Spanish Government to declare slave-trade piracy, and to prosecute those officials who connive at the traffic. The mere announcement that no further proof of actual connivance would be needed than the fact of a landing of slaves having taken place at any part of the island of Cuba, would at once compel the local authorities to use their utmost efforts to stop the traffic. This suggestion has been thrown out by Her Majesty's Commissioners, and it is one which your Committee believe would, if acted upon, produce the desired results.

IMMIGRATION. — In the year 1857, that is, from the 25th of November 1856 to the 20th June 1857, 5560 Chinese labourers were imported into Cuba, besides the 10,436 negroes already referred to. These were conveyed to the island from Swatow, Macao, and Hong Kong, in eighteen vessels. The average duration of the voyage was 140 days—nearly five months—and the average mortality nearly 14 per cent. There were, however, three instances in which the mortality amounted to within a fraction of 31 per cent., 88 per cent., and 59 per cent. respectively, the voyages having lasted 117 days, 226 days, and 230 days. In one instance there were no deaths, and the lowest rate of mortality was six out of 191. Both of these exceptions occurred in British vessels. The total number of Chinese who have been introduced into Cuba since the 3rd of June 1847, is 17,146, and it is a remarkable fact, that out of this large number only seven were women.

The ostensible object sought by the introduction of Chinese, is to supersede slave-labour, and upon this principle your Committee find that Mr. Consul Crawford advocates its continuance and encouragement. It is, however, impossible to

reconcile this view with the opinions expressed by Mr. Crawford in 1856, who, when addressing the Earl of Clarendon upon this important subject, stated that "the Chinese immigrants are treated with little more consideration than the slaves, and that not more than one-half would outlive their eight years' term of service." Yet, in 1857, Mr. Crawford advocates an extension of the system, under contracts for service for not less than eight years. At the same time he objects, in the strongest terms, to the exclusive importation of male labourers, for reasons sufficiently obvious to render their reproduction unnecessary, but recommends that Her Majesty's Government should withdraw the restrictions which operate to prevent Chinese women from emigrating. Now, your Committee would beg to observe, that these restrictions are not of a nature to be removed by any interference on the part of the British Government. It is notorious that the native customs and social habits of the Chinese are entirely adverse to female emigration, and there is not a British official connected with the administration of affairs in China, who has not informed the Home Government that it is hopeless to expect a relaxation of the social rules which govern the condition of the Chinese women, and affect their freedom of action. How, under such circumstances, Mr. Crawford's recommendation is to be carried out, does not appear; but it strikes your Committee, that to make a suggestion of this kind is positively mischievous, as likely to lead to attempts which must fail, and will inflict much misery, suffering, and death on those who may become the objects of an experiment to violate the social customs of a country. As a considerable proportion of the Chinese who are conveyed to Cuba are transported thither in British vessels, and as it is established beyond doubt that kidnapping, fraud, and violence are the common modes employed to obtain these so-called immigrants, your Committee feel that the whole subject must be thoroughly investigated; nor do they hesitate to declare it to be their conviction that British vessels ought to be absolutely prohibited from engaging in a trade which Sir John Bowring has designated as equalling in atrocity the old African slave-trade.

TURKEY AND THE LEVANT.—In February 1856 an imperial firman prohibited the exportation of negro slaves from all parts of the Regency of Tunis; but notwithstanding this prohibition, an extensive contraband traffic has since been actively carried on, both by sea and land, and the overland route of Egypt. It is to be borne in mind, while dwelling on this fact, that even the most indefatigable vigilance of the authorities has to contend against a great difficulty, presented by the extent and unguarded state of

the frontier, and against the sympathies of the entire population, which are opposed to a measure that suddenly abolished an institution coeval with their earliest traditional records, is sanctioned by immemorial custom, and hallowed by religious precept, inasmuch as Slavery is a part of Islam itself. Hence every device is employed to defeat the operation of the abolitionary firman, from the highest to the lowest authority in the Levant. It may, however, be supposed that this instrument would have effected a material diminution of the traffic if its operation had not been materially checked in consequence of the French permitting the importation of negroes into Algeria, where they realize very high prices. For upwards of 2000 years the internal slave-trade has followed a particular route. The great caravans from Bornu, the Soudan, and other parts of Nigritia, as far as the district of Hontî, on the Niger, which for twenty centuries have found their way *via* Mourzook and Ghadames, to Tripoli and Tunis, and again from Mourzook by the oasis of Angelu to Bengazi and Upper Egypt, now move concentrically upon Ghât, from that point upon Insulu, in Tuat, and finally from thence enter the Algerine territory by Mitlib and Wurglah. This is one immediate result of the efforts of the Porte to suppress slave-trade and Slavery. Ghât has suddenly become the entrepôt of the commerce of the interior, and between that place and the Algerine southern frontier a most extensive trade is carried on at present in slaves, and in the various industrial and agricultural products of central Africa, upon which France has remitted all duties, with the object of attracting the whole commerce of the interior to her frontier. Algeria is now said to absorb two-thirds of the whole value of the caravan trade. These facts shew how futile are all attempts to suppress the slave-trade, so long as the institution of Slavery itself in any country exists. Thus, while in the regency of Tunis itself the efforts of the Porte to abolish the traffic have been so far successful, that within its limits the traffic in slaves has been virtually suppressed, it is seen that the demand for negroes in Algeria has caused the continuance of the internal trade, and the evil will now have to be attacked by representations to the French Government. Nevertheless, the Porte is entitled to credit for its efforts in an anti-slavery direction. It would appear that considerable activity is being displayed by the Ottoman Government in investigating cases of slave-trading brought under its notice; and in one instance six slaves, who had been surreptitiously introduced, were at once manumitted, and put out to service at a certain rate of wages. All the recent measures tend to progressive emancipation.

UNITED STATES.—A long correspondence between the Foreign Office and Mr. Dallas,

the American Secretary for Foreign Affairs, discloses the fact that the slave-trade is now carried on almost exclusively in American vessels, or under the American flag, and that many of them are equipped for the traffic in American ports, and sail from thence for the coast of Africa. The Blue Books last issued do not contain the result of this correspondence; but it has been made public through the debates on the vexed question of the right of search which took place in the British Parliament last session. The American Government refuses to admit that commanders of British cruisers can exercise, as against American vessels, or ships sailing under an American flag, the right of search, without violating international law; wherefore that assumed right has by common consent been abandoned: but the British Government has received the assurance that no efforts shall be spared to prevent the abuse of the Federal colours, and that precise instructions shall be issued to the officers engaged in the naval service of the States, to exercise due vigilance in boarding suspected vessels. It is merely necessary to add, by way of record, that the whole question was brought before the British Parliament in consequence of some American vessels in the Cuban waters having been boarded by British naval officers employed in the squadron stationed in the Mexican gulf, in pursuance of the policy suggested two years ago by the West-India party. The complications arising out of this interference very nearly embroiled this country with the United States; but the differences were happily adjusted by mutual concessions, and the subsequent capture of a slaver in the Cuban waters, by an American vessel, furnishes evidence of the sincerity of the Federal Government, in co-operating with our own for the suppression of the odious traffic.

MIXED COMMISSION AND VICE-ADMIRALTY COURTS.

Your Committee have again to call attention to the fact, that while the reports of the Commissioners of the Mixed Commission Courts of SIERRA LEONE, HAVANA, LOANDA, and the CAPE OF GOOD HOPE, and of the Vice-Admiralty Courts of St. HELENA and SIERRA LEONE present a complete blank, the activity of the Slave-trade to Cuba from the West and the East coasts of Africa, furnishes irrefragable evidence of the inefficacy of the expensive system of which they constitute so important a feature.

THE CRUISER SQUADRON.

WEST COAST OF AFRICA.—Official returns shew, that from 1843 to 1857 inclusive, the average number of British cruisers engaged in the attempt to suppress the slave-trade has been nineteen, with 148 guns. For three years there had been no American vessel of war whatever on the West-African Station,

and as the Transatlantic slave-trade is carried on almost exclusively under the American flag, and only American cruisers have the right of boarding and searching vessels sailing under it, the result has been a large number of shipments from various ports on the West Coast. No sooner does the traffic disappear—or seem to do so—from one place, than it breaks out in another at some remoter point. In fact, notwithstanding the activity of the cruisers, as evidenced by their having captured a considerable number of slavers, some with and others without slaves on board, there is no doubt of a revival of the trade. One slaver was run ashore by the *Sappho*. She was a large vessel of 1400 tons burden, and had 1200 negroes on board when the captain had recourse to this desperate act. Out of them only 358 were saved, of whom forty subsequently died of exhaustion and exposure. The scene described by the captain of the *Sappho* is harrowing beyond description. The surf was making a clean breach over her decks, and the miserable slaves escaping in hundreds from the hold, rent the air with their wild shrieks, and flung themselves in crowds into the boiling sea, which soon engulfed them. During the year 1857, twenty-three slavers were captured, seventeen of which had no slaves on board. The others had an aggregate number amounting to 1592. The majority were sailing boldly under the American flag.

EAST COAST OF AFRICA.—Commodore Trotter assures the Admiralty that no Transatlantic slave-trade has been carried on from this part of the coast for three years past. This statement, however, does not appear to be confirmed, as there is no doubt that several American vessels had obtained slaves from various places as far down as Delagoa Bay. Your Committee are inclined to believe that the slavers have merely become more wary, and are able to defeat the vigilance of the cruiser squadron, for as many as seven vessels were known to have sailed under American colours from the Havana for the East Coast, and fourteen for the West Coast, within a few weeks of one another. Two thousand slaves had been sent from the river Meancarsi, (Delagoa Bay) alone. In addition to this regular slave-traffic, the French immigration scheme had quickened the cupidity of the Arab dealers, and several thousand negroes had been conveyed to Bourbon, from the Comoro Islands, Madagascar, and Mozambique. The case of the *Charles et Georges*, though not included in the Blue Books for 1858, sets the nature of the scheme entirely at rest. Besides the Transatlantic traffic from the East Coast, which your Committee cannot believe to be extinct, and the French immigration slave-trade, a very large and active trade is carried

on between Zanzibar and Quiloa, within the territories of the Sultan of the former place, and also at Ibo, and to and from the African main, to the various markets along the coast. It is computed that 11,000 are annually required to make up for losses on the Zanzibar plantations. This trade is carried on in native dhows, or small boats, which accomplish their short voyages with impunity.

AFRICAN IMMIGRATION.

It is necessary to distinguish between the system of so-called immigration from Africa, and that designated as Coolie immigration. The latter may be conducted without necessarily involving the atrocities which distinguish the African slave-trade, and without infringing the personal liberty of the immigrants; but it is established beyond a possibility of contradiction, that no free immigrants can be procured from any part of the African Coast; and, therefore, that any demand for men, whatever may be their ultimate destination, is a direct provocation to the slave-trader to procure slaves for sale. Since your Committee last addressed you, serious complications have arisen, both on the West and the East Coast of Africa; on the one hand with the Republic of LIBERIA, and on the other with the Portuguese authorities at Mozambique, in consequence of the attempts of the French to obtain slaves to convey as labourers to their colonies. The agents of the French Government who proceeded to the West Coast acted upon the authority of a contract accepted by the Messrs. Regis and Co. of Marseilles, to supply 20,000 negroes to the colonies of Martinique and Guadeloupe. For this purpose they visited Whydah, and other places on the coast, and with some difficulty obtained several cargoes. They found themselves outbidden by the Spaniards and Portuguese, and were therefore obliged to take the refuse of the barracoons, or give up the enterprise. One of these shipments was especially unfortunate. The *Stella*, Captain Bernard, a screw-vessel of 383 tons, took on board, from various ports, a cargo of 950 negroes, and proceeded to Guadeloupe, but before she arrived, 303 had been committed to the deep, and, subsequently, 82 more were accidentally drowned. The mortality is supposed to have been inordinately large in other cases, as the French authorities admit the shipments to have turned out unfortunately, although they have not published the number of deaths. Another equally notorious case, that of the *Regina Celi*, resulted in a revolt on board the vessel, the killing of the crew by the deceived and infuriated negroes, their making off with the ship, her re-capture by the British steamer *Ethiophe*, Capt. Croft, and a serious misunderstanding between the French and the Liberian authorities, which has not yet been settled. It is now conclusively

established that the latter not only did not countenance the transaction in question, but endeavoured to discourage it, though without success; and the President of Liberia complains in his last annual message, that, since 1855, French agents have constantly violated the laws of the Republic, by purchasing slaves of the chiefs who, though subject to Liberia, are beyond the control of the Government. The result of this demand for men has been to divert the attention of the native chiefs along the coast from legitimate commerce, which was rapidly springing up, and to inflict a severe blow upon native industry and agriculture. This has been especially perceptible in the diminution of the palm-oil trade from the Bight of Benin, which will not this year amount to 3000 tons, being nearly 2000 tons less than it was last year. The rapidly rising cotton trade has also suffered, and it is confidently asserted, that unless the French Government can be induced to suspend their scheme, native trade and industry on the coast will be destroyed.

On the East Coast the results have been perhaps less disastrous in this direction, because very few attempts have as yet been made to develop the resources of that part of the continent; but they have not failed to stimulate the trade in slaves to an extraordinary degree. The efforts of Mr. Consul McLeod, in calling the attention of the Portuguese authorities and of her Majesty's Government to the real character of this immigration scheme, are deserving of all praise, prosecuted as they were at the risk of his own and his wife's life. Through his representations the *Charles-et-Georges* was captured, and the question brought before Europe, whether the French were to be permitted openly to purchase slaves to convey them to their colonies, under the pretence of converting them into labourers for a term of years. The issue of that transaction has not been creditable to the French Government; and though it has attempted to justify the extreme measure it took in demanding the restitution of the *Charles-et-Georges*, under a menace of hostilities if the demand were not complied with, it has condemned the system by renewing the prohibition to export slaves from the East Coast. Your Committee feel that this subject is one of the deepest importance, which will require to be jealously watched; for the greatest dangers are to be apprehended from a persistence in a scheme which, while it holds out a prospect of gain nearly as large as that which the regular slave-trade is known to give, is exempt from its risks and penalties.

OBSERVATIONS.

It is a melancholy reflection, that after half a century of persistent effort on the part of this country, the expenditure of upwards of forty millions sterling, and the sacrifice of many

thousands of lives, the slave-trade should still be prosecuted to so great an extent. One encouraging feature, however, is, that there appears to exist no reasonable doubt of the ordinary Transatlantic traffic being now confined to Cuba, and of its being carried on chiefly under one flag. We may therefore hope for the cordial co-operation of the American Government in its suppression, though we may not anticipate an honest effort in the same direction on the part of Spain. The closing of the Brazilian market has produced the most salutary effect, in materially reducing the demand for slaves; and were that of Cuba closed likewise, the trade would be extinct. But while your Committee look forward with considerable hope to the result of the joint efforts of the British and American Governments to put down the Transatlantic slave-trade, they entertain the gloomiest forebodings as to the effect which a continuance of the French immigration scheme may produce in reviving it under this new form. It is deplorable to observe its results already. Legitimate commerce and the development of native industry are the deadliest enemies of the slave-trade, for wherever they take root they annihilate it. In proof of this, two illustrations will suffice, and they are perhaps the most remarkable that can be quoted. Only a few years ago, slaves were almost the only commodity exported from the Bight of Benin. In 1857 the total declared value of exports of palm-oil, cotton, ivory, and cotton cloths, amounted to 1,062,800*l*. From Lagos alone there was in 1857, as compared with 1856, an increase of 1050 tons of palm-oil, 8061*lbs*. of ivory, and 81,353*lbs*. of cotton; while in 1853 the total quantity of palm-oil exported from the same place was only 160 tons. This development of native industry has also produced another salutary effect: it has materially increased the value of labour, and consequently of the labourer. In 1853 three strings of cowries, equivalent to three-pence sterling, was the price of common labour per day. In 1857 it had risen to fifteen strings of cowries, equivalent to seven-pence half-penny, or 150 per cent. In the former year the value of an able-bodied slave from the interior was from four to five bags of cowries. In 1857 it had reached from ten to twelve bags, or from 4*l*. 10*s*., the lowest price, to 13*l*. 12*s*. 6*d*., while the price of a domestic slave at Lagos had reached to fifteen bags of cowries, or 16*l*. 17*s*. 6*d*.. As a consequence of this increased value of labour, the slaves are enabled, by frugality and industry, soon to purchase their freedom, and thus the system of domestic Slavery is undermined entirely by the operation of legitimate trade and industry. Other facts, equally interesting, shewing how this example operates all along the coast and in the interior, might be quoted, but to do so would extend this part of your Com-

mittee's Report to too great a length. Sufficient has been said to demonstrate the importance of encouraging the development of the resources of the country, and the grievous impolicy of the immigration scheme, which strikes, like the slave-trade, at the very root of this growing prosperity, and impedes the onward march of civilization.

The other fact your Committee consider should not be omitted, is of immense importance to national interests, and bears directly upon the question of the abolition of Slavery in America. They refer to the enormous development of the trade in native raw cotton which has taken place at Abbeokuta alone, stimulated by Mr. Thomas Clegg, of Manchester. In 1851-52 nine bags, weighing 1810lbs., were exported from that place as an experiment. In 1858 the quantity had reached 1819 bags, weighing 220,000lbs. It cannot be too frequently mentioned, that from the year 1784 to 1791 only 64 bales of the raw staple were imported into England from America; and the great importance of the development of the culture of raw cotton in Africa may be estimated from the calculation which has been made, namely, that if the production of this valuable staple only increase during the next ten years in the same ratio as it has done during only the last two, Africa will be able of herself to supply this country with as much cotton as she requires, the whole produced by free labour. Every one will agree that it would be a deplorable calamity were such a brilliant prospect marred by the revival of the expiring slave-trade in the prosecution of the French immigration scheme.

SLAVERY.

Although this dreadful institution maintains itself in some parts of the world, with almost undiminished vigour, it is encouraging to find that in others its days are numbered.

AMERICA.

The Southern States of the American Confederation stand first in the list of slave-holding communities, and claim your Committee's earliest notice.

Although the next Presidential election will not take place until 1860, political parties are already taking up their order of battle for that periodical contest. It would be premature to speculate upon its issue so long beforehand; but it can already be seen that the candidates intend to submit their claims upon the broad, well-defined issue of Slavery and Anti-slavery. It cannot be expected that the political abolitionists—if such a designation can be applied to those who do not contemplate the extinction of Slavery, but merely its restriction to its actual limits—should occupy the ground on which the radical abolitionists take their stand. The friends of humanity may regret the fact, but they cannot be blind to another equally

patent, namely, that as Slavery is as much a political as a social question, it must be attacked politically, as well as socially. It is obvious that if a great national party once gain the ascendancy on the distinct issue that the area of Slavery shall not be extended, it will be so much accomplished towards a definite solution of the great question at a future and perhaps not a very remote period. Your Committee may admire the courage and resolution of the American ultra Abolitionists, in contending manfully against the enemies of freedom, and in asserting at all times, and under all circumstances, the inherent sinfulness of Slavery, and the claims of the slave to immediate and unconditional emancipation; but they are not less alive to the fact, that the great evil is not to be exterminated by one class of effort alone, but by the united power of many. They may admit the viciousness of the principle of compensated emancipation; but bearing in mind that Great Britain set the example, and that it has entered into every scheme of emancipation since proposed or adopted, the possibility of such an element in the solution of the question in America is likely constantly to force itself upon their thoughts, and cause them to look to the political Abolitionists as the pioneers of some proposal of this kind, though they may change their name and their organization, as they have already done many times. They may also admit to the fullest extent the importance and value of an abolition movement, based on strictly religious grounds; but experience has taught them that the day must come when, as was the case in Great Britain, the question of Slavery or no Slavery will have to be resolved by the people at the ballot-box. Hence, your Committee, looking on from afar at the great struggle now going on in the United States, regard with considerable interest the arraying of political parties against each other, on this great question, without any diminution of sympathy towards those who stand outside of all political organizations, and confine their efforts to a moral crusade against the great iniquity. They submit as a remarkable sign of the times, that two men like Senators Douglass and Seward should be put forward by their respective supporters as candidates for the chief magistracy, the one representing the slaveocracy, whose champion he has been, and who by his Nebraska-Kansas Bill, virtually repealing the Missouri Compromise, did more for his party than any of his co-adjutors; the other, an Abolitionist, representing the anti-slavery republicans, or non-extensionists. Whatever may be the result of the canvas, good must result to the cause, from the thorough ventilation of the questions at issue, and the public mind will be thereby prepared for some more decisive movement. When it is remembered, that only a very few years ago there was a

positive ban upon the discussion of the question of Slavery, and that now the most important political event upon which the government of the country depends, turns upon the views of the respective candidates in relation to it, the most unsanguine must admit that the prospect is cheering, and that anti-slavery principles have wonderfully progressed. The States elections, which resulted in the recommendation of Senators Douglass and Seward as candidates for the Presidency in 1860, constitute one of the most important political events of the past year.

The second is the admission of Oregon into the Confederation of States of the Union, which now consists of eighteen free and fifteen slave-states. Its Constitution is only nominally free; for though it makes no distinct mention of Slavery, nor does it sanction chattel-slavery, it contains provisions which commit it to the interests of the South.

During the session of Congress a Bill for the appropriation of 30,000,000 dollars for the purchase of Cuba, proposed by Mr. Slidell, was virtually rejected, but its proposer intends to bring it forward again. Several other pro-slavery projects were also thrown out. While there has been apparent in the masses, as evinced by the nomination of Mr. Seward for the Presidential office, a tendency to a development of anti-slavery sentiment, in many of the States, legislation has been retrogressive. In North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, and Louisiana, measures have been passed restricting the rights of the free-coloured people, and giving further powers to the masters of slaves in peculiar cases. On the other hand, Vermont has passed a Bill which renders the Fugitive-Slave Law a dead letter in that State. Albany had passed a Personal Liberty Bill, similar in effect; and though in New-York State, the measure had been lost, so strong a feeling was manifested in favour of it by the citizens, that no doubt exists of its being acted upon as though it were law.

Your Committee cannot record any change of policy in the American churches, nor in those Associations which, like the *American Bible Society*, the *American Tract Society*, and the *American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions*, directly uphold Slavery. Nor is it likely they will alter their course so long as the most prominent members of them—such as the Rev. Dr. Pomeroy, one of the Secretaries of the latter body—and the ministers connected with them, are received in this country and permitted to take a part in the proceedings of the *British and Foreign Bible Society*, the *London Missionary Society*, the *Congregational Union*, and kindred Associations. Deeply is it to be regretted that countenance is given to their course in America by the deference they meet with amongst us. If British abolitionists hope to influence public opinion in

America on this important question, it must be by resolutely setting their faces against pro-slavery American divines of this class, of whatever rank, and thus awakening their conscience to a sense of their inconsistency in advocating in the same breath the Holy Gospel which preaches freedom to all mankind, and a system like Slavery, which violates every Christian principle and every natural right.

In this connection, and as presenting a striking exception to the general rule, your Committee would record the noble stand which the Rev. Dr. Cheever, pastor of the church of Puritans in New York, is making against the pro-slavery religion of the majority of the American churches, by fearlessly denouncing Slavery from his pulpit, as a sin against which the united voices of Christian ministers ought to be raised. His remarkable work, entitled *God against Slavery*, has elicited a mark of approval from the Queen of England; but more precious to the resolute servant of the Lord will be an expression of sympathy from the friends of the cause in this country. In 1850 he denounced the infamous Fugitive-Slave Bill, in words which fell upon his congregation—then the most fashionable in New York—like a thunderbolt from a cloudless sky; and since that he has constantly preached against the sin of the nation. Remonstrances from the wealthy members of his congregation produced no effect upon him, and at length they have combined to drive him from his church. His courage, however, sustained by a consciousness of right, appears to rise with the emergency, and though at present sorely tried, he stands firm, trusting in the faith which cometh of belief to come triumphantly out of the ordeal. Such men as these are the apostles of truth and the martyrs of principle, and deserve to be strengthened by the approval of all true abolitionists.

Your Committee claim to be permitted not to dwell upon the various incidents which in the course of the past year have marked the chequered course of the anti-slavery cause in the United States, especially as they have been already duly recorded in the *Anti-Slavery Reporter*. In a report like the present, they profess merely to present an outline of the leading events of the year, in order to furnish their constituents with data to form an opinion upon the progress of the movement. It is their own conviction that the signs of the times are hopeful, notwithstanding some occasional cause of discouragement.

BRAZIL.

The reports of Her Majesty's Consuls from the various ports of Brazil indicate a total cessation of the foreign slave-trade; and it is even more satisfactory to find that the

Imperial Government has resolutely set its face against the importation of Africans as immigrant labourers.

FRANCE.

Although Slavery does not exist by name in the colonies of France, the apprenticeship system in operation there is exceedingly oppressive, and is supported, besides, by importations of Africans, who are obtained by purchase. In a previous part of their report your Committee have dwelt upon the main features of this new system, and, in reverting to it, would lay stress upon the unfavourable position in which the British Government has placed itself, to remonstrate with that of France against the continued prosecution of its scheme for procuring labourers, so long as it sanctions a trade in coolies to its own colonies. It is quite true that the exportation of Africans to Bourbon from the East Coast has been prohibited; but as far back as 1852 Count Walewski issued strict orders to the Governor of Bourbon not to permit the introduction of negroes into that island, because they could not be obtained save by purchase, which would be slave-trading. This fact shews conclusively that, long ago, the French Government was perfectly aware of the character of the scheme which it has since defended and carried out so vigorously, both from the East and the West Coast of Africa; and as its prosecution involves in either case the same consequences, one is at a loss to comprehend how that which is admitted to be slave-trading on the East Coast can be free immigration on the West. Your Committee cannot conceal from themselves that this question is at present in a most unsatisfactory state; nor can they see how it is to be settled, especially since the announcement made by the first Minister of the Crown, that France had consented to renounce her scheme only upon condition that she should be allowed to obtain an unlimited number of Chinese and Indian coolies. There are at this very time in Bourbon 60,000 Indians, who, as they could not have been furnished by Pondicherry and Karikal—French East-India settlements—must all be British subjects, who have been taken from British territory in India. Now the latest Blue Book* sets forth that these Indians are induced by crimps, who receive five rupees, or 10s. a head, for every Indian brought by them to Pondicherry or Karikal, to proceed to these places, where they are at once seized and placed under lock and key until a vessel is ready to convey them to Bourbon. When there, they must serve for five years, for three rupees (6s.) a month wages, and indifferent food. It will be seen that this system

differs but in a mild degree from the slave-trade and forced servitude, or Slavery, and is one which no Government ought to uphold, and which the friends of freedom are bound to oppose.

HOLLAND.

The cause of emancipation is making but slow progress in Holland. The new Colonial Minister has presented an amended project of emancipation to the Legislature, but as yet no report has been made upon it; and as there will not now be time to do so, the whole question is thrown over until next year. The new project is, in many respects, more acceptable than the one rejected last year. The Government is encountering considerable opposition from certain British subjects who are slaveholders in Surinam.

PORTUGAL.

Last year your Committee announced that certain Portarias, or decrees, had been issued by the Portuguese Government on the subject of the abolition of Slavery in the transmarine possessions of the Crown of Portugal. In April last year the King issued a decree, declaring, that throughout all of them Slavery should be abolished within a period of twenty years, compensation being granted to the slave-owners. There appears to be a startling discrepancy between the terms of this decree and those of the Portarias alluded to, inasmuch as the latter declared that Slavery was to be abolished within six months of their publication. Your Committee have been in correspondence with the Portuguese Ambassador on the subject. They may be permitted to express satisfaction that the decree for emancipating the slaves has been issued, though they regret it is not to take effect for so long a period. They also consider it due to the Portuguese Government to express their sympathy with it, under the trying circumstances in which it was placed in consequence of the seizure of the *Charles-et-Georges* at Mozambique. At the same time, and while expressing their satisfaction at this proof of the sincerity of the Portuguese Government itself, in endeavouring to put down slave-trading, they would submit, that so long as the Governor of a Portuguese colony like Mozambique is dependent upon a local Finance Council, the members of which are in the slave-trade interest, and which has the power of stopping his supplies, and otherwise paralyzing his authority, it is futile to expect that he can carry out an anti-slave-trade policy; and they would earnestly suggest that the Portuguese Government should adopt measures to render him really an independent agent.

SPAIN.

Your Committee have only to record that Spain continues shamefully callous to all remonstrances on the subject of the slave

* Slave-trade Papers, Class B., 1858, p. 154.

trade, and has now formally refused to constitute it piracy, proving her determination to continue to prosecute it, in spite of treaties and the execration of the civilized world.

HOME PROCEEDINGS.

The last year has been one of extreme anxiety to your Committee, whose attention has been constantly directed to questions of vital importance. The proceedings in Parliament have demanded their unceasing vigilance, and they believe that the information supplied to members of both Houses, and the inquiries suggested by them, have been productive of beneficial results.

A reference to the Parliamentary Record of last year will shew that two very important debates took place, one in the House of Lords, on the subject of the slave-trade to Cuba; the other in the House of Commons, on the motion of Mr. Hutt for the withdrawal of the cruiser squadron. It was the privilege of your Committee on both these occasions to supply information to the principal speakers, and also to many members of both houses who did not take a part in the debates. Towards the close of the year, their attention was directed to a new Immigration Bill, then recently passed by the Jamaica legislature, identical in its main provisions with the one which your Committee announced, at their last Annual Meeting, they had succeeded in inducing Government to disallow. Their interposition was most urgently solicited in this instance, and they therefore lost no time in preparing an analysis of it, and as soon as Parliament met, Lord Brougham brought the subject before the House of Lords, with a view to obtain the disallowance of the measure. Government, however, was already committed to it, the Bill being the joint production of the Colonial Minister himself and a Parliamentary Member of the West-India Committee. The object of your Committee being defeated in the House of Lords, they next attempted to delay its obtaining the Royal sanction, by asking Mr. Charles Buxton to move in the House of Commons for the printing of the Bill with the Government amendments, the Colonial Under-Secretary having stated that some parts of the Bill did not quite meet with the approval of the Government. Mr. Buxton, however, thought it best to move for a Committee of the House of Commons to inquire into the condition of the West Indies, and the best means of promoting immigration into them.

With respect to the Jamaica Bill, it has received the Royal assent, but your Committee believe that it will prove inoperative, because, with a Committee impending, which may recommend a total change in the system of immigration, or may prohibit it altogether, it is not likely it will be acted upon to any considerable extent. In the meantime, your Committee, after mature deliberation, con-

cluded to use their best efforts to obtain a Committee of the House of Lords, and passed a resolution praying Lord Brougham to move, at an early day, for the appointment of a Committee "to inquire into the condition of the West Indies so far as regards the alleged deficiency of labour in them, and the causes thereof, and into the working of the present system of immigration in those sugar colonies which have received immigrants, as well as into the means employed in the East Indies and in China to obtain immigrants from those countries." It will be observed that such a Committee would embrace a wide field of inquiry; and your Committee are satisfied that nothing short of a complete investigation will suffice to dissipate the erroneous views which are entertained in many quarters, of the results of the great experiment of emancipation. With regard to immigration, your Committee have never been disposed to interfere with it, when perfectly voluntary. So long, however, as they receive information from reliable sources that there is not only no lack of available labour to cultivate the estates under crop, but in excess for an extension of cultivation, they cannot consider immigration necessary; nor, were they to admit, for argument's sake, that it is necessary, can they conscientiously refrain from opposing a system which commences in fraud and violence, and inflicts misery and premature death upon thousands of their fellow-creatures. The Committee do not deem it necessary to enter at length upon the numerous objections to which the present system of immigration is, in their estimation, obnoxious. They have been set forth in repeated memorials to the Government, the last of which, together with a list of special objections to the new Jamaica Immigration Bill, they presented by deputation to the Colonial Minister on the 25th of January last. To these a wide publicity was given, and your Committee have reason to know, that in many quarters they produced, if not a total change of opinion, at least such hesitation as led to further investigation, and a suspension of judgment. A considerable number of memorials against the Bill was presented to Sir E. B. Lytton from all parts of the country, which were, in the majority of cases, numerous signed. Petitions to the House of Lords, praying for a Committee, are now in course of signature; and as soon as Parliament re-assembles, your Committee will prosecute the movement with their utmost energy. They have issued two circulars to their correspondents in the West Indies, urging co-operation in that quarter, the responses to which are extremely encouraging.

In connection with this question of immigration, in July last your Committee induced Lord Brougham to move for "returns of the number of immigrants from India and China who have been introduced into the British

East and West-India colonies since 1835; with a statement of the mortality on the passage; the duration of the voyage; of the number who have left each colony to return home; of those who have died there; of those who have become chargeable as paupers or otherwise on the colony; how those that remain are employed; and a statement showing what proportion of the expenses on immigration account has been paid out of the funds of each colony, and how much out of the imperial exchequer." They also induced Mr. C. Buxton to move, on the 18th of March last, for "returns up to the present date of all loans made by the British Government, or guaranteed by it, to the several West-India Colonies, British Guiana, and Mauritius, for immigration purposes; and of any amounts which those colonies have repaid on account of such loans, distinguishing the sums loaned or guaranteed to or repaid by each colony; and of the amount each of these several colonies has voted for immigration purposes, specifying the amounts paid for importation and for back passages." Your Committee believe that these returns will shew that immigration, as it has been hitherto conducted, has not only caused a large sacrifice of human life, but has proved ruinously expensive to the colonies to which it has taken place, while it has thrown the chief burden upon the native labouring population.

The misgovernment of the Colony of Sierra Leone, the population of which consists mainly of liberated Africans, has also occupied your Committee's attention, at whose instigation Lord Brougham moved, in July last, for returns which will throw considerable light on the system of nepotism which obtains there, and seriously interferes with the proper administration of the affairs of that settlement.

Considerable labour was thrown upon your Committee also in investigating the origin, progress, and results of the French immigration scheme, which still occupies their thoughts and excites their solicitude. They have not found it needful to publish at present the information they have been able to collate, but it is impossible the question can remain in its present unsatisfactory state. They also have their attention directed to the larger general question of Indian and Chinese coolie immigration, and are collecting facts to illustrate the system, which they believe to be most cruel. Two tracts on this subject, one entitled "A voyage with Coolie Emigrants from Calcutta to Trinidad," by the widow of Captain Swinton of the *Salcette*, and the second a personal narrative by the Rev. Dr. de la Porte, of Swatow, shewing the atrocious character of the trade in Chinese, are now being circulated by your

Committee. Some thousands have already been distributed. During the recent elections, too, your Committee issued a handbill, calling attention to the immigration slave-trade, and the sanction given to it by Her Majesty's Government; and also to the oppressive augmentation of the taxes on imports recently imposed by the Jamaica Legislature for immigration purposes, amounting, on one article of consumption essential to health—namely, salt—to 2300 per cent.; and on others from 50 per cent. upwards. Nearly 10,000 of these were distributed over the country, with excellent results.

In May last year, your Committee forwarded an Address to the Emperor of Russia on the occasion of the publication of his edicts for the emancipation of the serfs, to which they received, in due course, a gracious reply. They have recently transmitted to the King of Holland a Memorial on the subject of a petition from certain slaveholders in Surinam, being British subjects, to the Second Chamber of the States-General, opposing the project of emancipation now under the consideration of the Dutch Government, and asking for larger compensation. It may be useful to state that the aggregate number of acres held by British slaveholders in Surinam is 28,400, with 2763 slaves. Amongst them is Sir John Young, Bart., late High Commissioner of the Ionian Islands, who recently received an additional distinction from the hand of his Sovereign, and who owns Plantation Kent of 1000 acres, with 239 slaves, and Plantation Petersburg of 625 acres, with 292 slaves. He was one of those who, in 1853, petitioned the Earl of Malmesbury to interfere to procure for him compensation for the yet unborn children of his slave-women, whom a law then under the consideration of the Dutch Government, proposed to declare free as soon as born.* But not, to make invidious distinctions, your Committee submit the names of his colleagues, for the censure that unquestionably attaches to him, is also theirs. They are—H. Wright, B. Lyon, J. Lyon, J. Tyndale, G. B. Conolly, J. Robinson, JR. Wright, T. Green, J. C. Ellis, J. B. Barry, W. Jackson, W. Christie, A. Macintosh, A. Cameron, G. Frazer, B. Cruickshank, M. Balfour and heirs, J. Hamilton, B. M'Donald, G. Cruden, J. Robertson, and T. Green.

Your Committee confidently believe that there will be a unanimous expression of indignation throughout the country, mingled with deep regret, that at the present day there should be British subjects holding

* The other Memorialists on that occasion were Mrs. F. Barry of Boulogne-sur-mer and Bath, owner of the half of Plantations Alkmaar and Fredericksdorp, and Mrs. Ferrier of Glasgow, owner of the other half.—(Ed. A.S.R.)

slaves in a foreign colony, and that one of these British slaveholders should be a functionary of the Government. Copies of the Memorial to the King of Holland have been sent to the Dutch Colonial Minister, to the British Embassy at the Hague, to the Dutch *Anti-Slavery Society*, to the Second Chamber of the States-General, and to the Earl of Malmesbury.

There are also two companies, the *San Juan del Rey Mining Company*, and the *Imperial Brazilian Mining Association*, with English boards, with directors and officers resident in London, and whose shares are quoted on the Stock Exchange, respecting which your Committee have been in correspondence with the Government. The question propounded was, how far these Companies were violating the 6th and 7th Victoria, Cap. 98, in selling and leasing, or otherwise disposing of, the descendants of the slaves they possess and work, who have been born within a certain specified period. Inquiry having been instituted upon the spot, it appears that the sale or transfer of the slaves possessed by these Companies to a third Association, and respecting which the interference of your Committee was besought, is illegal, so far as relates to the slaves born since 1843; and it remains for the law-officers of the Crown to determine whether any legal measures can be adopted against the Companies whose direction is in England, which will lead to their punishment, for consigning to perpetual Slavery unhappy creatures who were entitled to their freedom.

Your Committee's representations have, in another instance, led to a definite, though, perhaps, not a very encouraging result. In an Address which they presented to the Earl of Clarendon, on the subject of the suppression of the Cuban slave-trade, by declaring it piracy—a suggestion they had adopted upon the strength of Mr. Consul Crawford and Lord Howden's approval of it, as also of that of Lord Clarendon himself—they urged the Government to press the Cabinet of Madrid for a definite reply on this head. That reply has now been published, and it conveys a decided, and even peremptory negative. Such a course betrays so utter a contempt of national honour, and such an amount of insolent complacency, that it furnishes a fair ground for submitting the question to the decision of the British Parliament, as it is not to be tolerated that a Government which has received, with the interest on the original sum, upwards of a million sterling to abolish the slave-trade, should be longer permitted to laugh at remonstrances, and prosecute the iniquity with barefaced effrontery. On this subject your Committee presented a Memorial to the Earl of Derby, on the 8th of July last, on which occasion they were accompanied by a highly-influential deputation.

Your Committee have to record, that in the course of last summer, their Secretary having been invited to pay a visit to Holland, to disseminate information on the results of emancipation, was released from his duties for that purpose. During his stay, which extended over three weeks, he held several public and private meetings in parts of the country he had not visited on previous occasions, and succeeded in awakening a new interest in the question. He also had an opportunity of conferring with persons high in authority on the subject of emancipation, and with some of the principal promoters of the abolition movement. He distributed upwards of three hundred copies of the *West-India Labour Question*, referred to in your Committee's last report, which has since been translated into the Dutch language, and extensively circulated. At Leuwarden, in North Holland, the nucleus of a new Auxiliary to the *Amsterdam Young-Men's Anti-Slavery Society* was formed, and in every respect the mission proved highly successful and encouraging. Your Committee believe that these periodical visits tend to accomplish a considerable amount of good, by bringing the Abolitionists of other countries into more intimate relations with ourselves, and in removing the erroneous impressions of the results of emancipation which are derived from the one-sided statements of prejudiced parties. Shortly after his return, he was again released to attend the meeting of the *National Association for the Promotion of Social Science* at Liverpool, for which he had been encouraged by Lord Brougham to prepare a paper on the results of emancipation. Public attention was subsequently specially directed to the subject, in a manner most unexpected, in consequence of the statement being attacked by the chairman of the *West India Committee*. It also provoked a controversy throughout the West Indies, eliciting information from numerous quarters, which has materially contributed to strengthen your Committee in their belief, that where positive statements are made upon one side upon trustworthy evidence, and denied on the other in the most pertinacious manner, a Committee of Inquiry is a desirable mode of solving the points at issue. A Petition, praying for such a Committee was presented to the House of Lords by the Earl of Carlisle, on behalf of your Committee, on the 14th of last month, who entertain the earnest hope that the venerable Lord Brougham may be induced to bring forward the motion.

This succinct summary presents only a general outline of the labours of your Committee during the past year. In them they have been materially seconded by the various anti-slavery organizations in the provinces, chief amongst which they may mention the *Birmingham Ladies' Negroes Friend Society*,

and the *Edinburgh Ladies' Emancipation Society*, which displayed extraordinary activity in diffusing information on the immigration question at a moment when such co-operation was especially valuable. But your Committee are also indebted to other organizations, as well as to their numerous correspondents, for their prompt response to the appeals which were issued to them. They are also gratified to record that the *Leeds Mercury*, the *London Spectator*, the *Daily News*, and the *Morning Star*, were heartily with them, and that they received courteous attention from the editor of the *Economist*, and a degree of consideration even from the *Times*, though your Committee's views differ widely from those advocated by the last-named journal. Many other subjects besides those named have occupied your Committee's attention, amongst which they may refer to the case of a number of natives of the King's Mill group of islands, who were kidnapped and conveyed as labourers to Bourbon. Mr. C. Buxton kindly undertook to bring this matter before Parliament; but the great debate on the Reform Bill, and the dissolution, prevented his doing so. Your Committee have also had under notice the deplorable condition of the hospital and lunatic asylum of Kingston, Jamaica, the official reports on which disclose a state of things fearful to contemplate. This subject will be one of the first which they will bring under the notice of the Government as soon as Parliament re-assembles. Your Committee would also take this opportunity of acknowledging the service which Mr. C. Buxton has rendered to the cause with which his name stands so prominently associated, by his admirable article in the April Number of the *Edinburgh Review*, in which he refutes, in the most conclusive manner, from official and other documents, and in a style and language as remarkable for elegance as for power and terseness, the wild assertions of those who maintain that emancipation has proved a failure socially as well as commercially. The importance of documents such as these can only be appreciated by persons whose constant attention is directed to watch the effect produced upon the public mind abroad, especially in countries where Slavery still exists, by allegations, such as have unfortunately disfigured the columns of the leading journal of the day, tending to disparage the freed population of the West Indies, and to bolster up an interest which, like that of the West-Indian Body, looks back upon the past with regret, and to the future without hope.

One last duty remains to your Committee. It is the melancholy one of recording the removal, during the past year, of those whom it has pleased God to call to Himself, and who were associated with them in their labours. First in the order of time, Sir E. N.

Buxton, the inheritor of a name hallowed, by association with the early history of the anti-slavery movement, to all the friends of humanity. On the occasion of your last Annual Meeting he had promised to be present. A few days after, and he was no more. Second, Thomas Graham, of Coalbrook Dale, an humble, but earnest worker in the good cause, who, at the advanced age of eighty-eight, undertook a journey to London in the midst of an inclement season, to join a deputation of your Society to the Earl of Clarendon, and to record his protest against the French immigration slave-trade. Thirdly, John Allen of Liskeard, and Joseph Eaton, of Bristol, both equally unassuming, but whose influence for good was exercised over an extensive circle, and whose voices have been raised in advocacy of every good work, last, publicly, in the case of John Allen, at the Society's anniversary of 1858. Lastly, Joseph Sturge, over whose grave the grass has not yet grown, and whose presence amongst us is still felt. But a week ago yesterday, his remains were committed to their last resting-place, around which had gathered from all parts a crowd who had known, honoured, and loved him, and whose tears bore eloquent testimony to the affection and esteem in which they held him. Associated as he had been with the labours of your Committee for more than a quarter of a century; of later years the heart and soul of their great enterprise; ever prompt to act when personal effort was necessary, as he was to sustain it by his munificent gifts; a sagacious counsellor, and an uncompromising advocate of the rights of the oppressed; your Committee may be permitted, while they bow in humility and resignation to the will of Him who has seen fit to call their beloved and revered brother to Himself, to record their deep sense of the immense loss the anti-slavery cause, and that of humanity at large, has sustained by his removal from the scene of his earthly labours. But though, as men, they mourn his loss, they would express a sincere hope, that, stimulated by his Christian example, some of the rising generation may follow in his footsteps, and take up the work where he has left it; and that those whom a bountiful Providence has abundantly blessed, may, like him, live rich, by dispensing, in favour of the poor and the oppressed, a share of that wealth which they cannot take with them, remembering that "he who giveth to the poor lendeth to the Lord," and that "it is more blessed to give than to receive." In the faith that their Heavenly Father will raise up friends for the down-trodden slave and the oppressed people of the earth, the Committee desire to commit the cause to Him whose "tender mercies are over all his works."

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE, 1858.

[illegible]

LIST OF OFFICERS AND CORRESPONDING MEMBERS,
For 1859.

Treasurer.

GEORGE WILLIAM ALEXANDER, Lombard Street.

Committee.

ROBERT ALSOP
THOMAS BINNS
REV. JAMES CARLILE
JOSEPH COOPER
SAMUEL HORMAN-FISHER
JOSIAH FORSTER
ROBERT FORSTER

R. N. FOWLER
S. FOX
CHARLES GILPIN, M P.
F. W. HARRIS
HENRY STERRY
SAMUEL STURGE.

Secretary.

L. A. CHAMEROVZOW.

Corresponding Members.

PROFESSOR ACKERSDYKE, Utrecht
G. W. ANSTIE, Devizes
JOHN BEAUMONT, Ufford, near Woodbridge
REV. WILLIAM BEVAN, Wolverhampton
SAMUEL BOWLY, Gloucester
JOHN CANDLER, Chelmsford
FRANCIS R. COCKING, Venezuela
L. F. & A. COURTOIS, Toulouse
JOHN CROPPER, Liverpool
PROFESSOR DAVID, Copenhagen
PROFESSOR G. DE FELICE, Montauban
G. W. GEFKEN, Surinam
THOMAS HARVEY, Leeds
F. H. HEYDEE, Frankfort-on-the-Maine
REV. JOSHUA LEAVITT, Boston, U.S.
R. R. MADDEN, M.D., Dublin
J. P. F. MOQUETTE, Amsterdam

WILLIAM MORGAN, Birmingham
THOMAS PEASE, Bristol
RICHARD PEEK, Hazlewood, near Kingsbridge
HON. S. J. PRESUD, Barbados
M. GROEN VAN PRINSTEREK, the Hague
SAMUEL RHOADS, Philadelphia, U.S.
HYP. DE ST. ANTHOINE, Paris
H. R. ROMMEL, Frankfurt
REV. THOMAS SCALES, Gomersal
REV. A. V. SCHELTEMA, Amsterdam
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CONTRIBUTIONS, 1858.

Should any omissions occur in this List, Subscribers and Donors are requested to notify the same to the Secretary. It embraces Subscriptions and Donations from the 1st Jan. to 31st Dec. 1858.

Donations. Ann. Sub.				Donations. Ann. Sub.			
£ s. d. £ s. d.				£ s. d. £ s. d.			
A Friend to Africa, per John Dymond, Exeter				Brought forward 91 10 0. 53 13 6			
5 0 0				Crowley, Abraham, Alton,			
Aked, Thomas, Bradford				1 0 0			
Alexander, F., Woodbridge,				Crouch, E. A., Liskeard			
0 10 0				0 10 0			
Alexander, Mrs., ditto				Crabb, J. R., Southampton,			
0 10 0				5 0 0			
Alexander, J. B., Ipswich				Cropper, James, Kendal			
1 0 0				1 0 0			
Alcock, Mr., Brixton				Cross, Martha, Colchester,			
1 0 0				0 10 0			
Allen, John, Liskeard				Cruikshank, Edward, Edin- burgh			
1 1 0				0 5 0			
Allen, Richard, Dublin				Darby, Mrs. Lucy, Coal- brookdale			
1 0 0				1 1 0			
Anonymous, ditto				1 1 0			
0 5 0				Darby, Miss Mary, ditto			
Anstie, G. W., Devizes				1 1 0			
1 0 0				Darby, Mrs. Rebecca, ditto,			
Atwell, A. G., Kingsland				1 1 0			
1 1 0				Darby, Mrs. Hannah, ditto,			
Backhouse, J. C., Dar- lington				1 1 0			
1 1 0				Darby, Richard, ditto			
Baker, G., Birmingham.				1 1 0			
0 10 0				Davies, Samuel, Exeter			
Ball, William, Ambleside,				0 10 0			
2 2 0				Dent, William, Marr			
Ball Mrs., Cheltenham				1 0 0			
1 1 0				Dickenson, Henry, Coal- brookdale			
Banbury, Ladies' Anti- Slavery Association				1 1 0			
5 0 0				Dickenson, Rev. W. W., Ipswich			
Bassett, J. D., Leighton Buzzard				1 0 0			
1 1 0				Doyle, James, Downham			
Barclay, J. G., Leytonstone, 50 0 0				0 10 0			
2 2 0				Dundee Ladies' Anti-Sla- very Association			
Beaumont, Wm., Newcastle,				1 0 0			
1 0 0				Dymond, John, Exeter			
Beaumont, John, Ufford				0 10 0			
Bell, S. S. & E., Alton				Eaton, Josiah, Bristol			
1 0 0				5 5 0			
Bell, S., Fordingbridge, (2 years)				Elliott, John, Liskeard			
4 0 0				0 10 0			
Bell, J., London (ditto)				0 5 0			
4 0 0				Elliott, Mary, ditto			
Bewley, Samuel, Dublin				2 0 0			
1 0 0				Ellis, John, Leicester			
Binns Thomas, Tottenham,				1 0 0			
1 1 0				Evans, Mary, & Sisters, . Birmingham			
Birmingham & Wednesbury Ladies' Negro's Friend Society				1 0 0			
20 0 0				Evesham Ladies' Anti- Slavery Association			
1 0 0				1 0 0			
Bottomley, J., Birmingham,				Exeter Ladies' Anti-Slavery Association			
1 1 0				1 10 0			
Bowman, Henry, Bakewell,				Exeter, Collection at, per R. Hutchinson			
0 10 6				0 10 0			
Bowly, Samuel, Gloucester,				Falmouth Ladies' Anti-Sla- very Association			
1 1 0				1 1 0			
Bottomley, G., Bradford				Fawcus, Mary, N. Shields,			
0 10 0				0 10 0			
Braithwaite, Isaac, London,				Finlay, James, Harrow			
1 1 0				0 10 0			
Brewin, Edward, Leicester,				Fisher, Samuel Horman, Swansea (3 years)			
1 0 0				3 3 0			
Brighton Ladies' Anti- Slavery Association				0 5 0			
2 0 0				0 5 6			
Brown, Francis, Brighton,				Fisher, Peter M., ditto			
1 1 0				1 0 0			
Brown, Henry, Youghal				Fletcher, Dr. Caleb, York,			
0 2 6				1 0 0			
Buxton, C., M.P., London, 5 5 0				Fothergill, T., Cheltenham,			
2 2 0				1 0 0			
Burchett, J. R., ditto				Fothergill, Miss, ditto			
1 0 0				1 0 0			
Cadbury, J., Birmingham				Fothergill, Miss Mary, ditto,			
1 0 0				1 0 0			
Cadbury, B. H., ditto				Forster, W. E., Bradford			
0 10 0				1 0 0			
Cadbury, R. T., ditto				Forster, Josiah, Tottenham			
1 0 0				3 3 0			
Candler, John, Chelmsford,				Forster, Robert, ditto			
0 10 6				1 1 0			
Capper, Mrs., Cheltenham,				Foster R., North Shields			
1 1 0				0 5 0			
Catchpool, Thomas, Col- chester				0 5 0			
2 0 0				Forth, Robert, ditto			
1 0 0				1 1 0			
Cash, Samuel, Peckham				Fowler, Mrs. Lucy, Tottenham,			
1 1 0				1 1 0			
Charleton, Robert, Bristol				Fox, S., ditto . (2 years)			
1 1 0				2 2 0			
Charleton, Elizabeth, ditto, (2 years)				1 1 0			
2 0 0				Fox, Thomas, Bristol			
Chelmsford Ladies' Negro Friend Society				1 1 0			
4 0 0				Fox, Samuel, Nottingham, 10 0 0			
1 1 0				0 5 0			
Clarke, J., Southampton				1 0 0			
1 1 0				Gibbins, T., Birmingham			
0 10 6				1 0 0			
Clark, Thos., Bridgewater,				Gibbins, James, ditto			
0 10 6				1 0 0			
Clark, Alderman, South- ampton				Glyde, Mrs., Exeter			
0 10 6				1 0 0			
Cirencester Anti-Slavery Society				Graham, T. Coalbrookdale			
4 0 0				1 0 0			
0 2 6				Gray, J., Youghal			
1 0 0				Gundry, Sarah, Calne			
2 0 0				1 0 0			
Hack, D. P., Brighton				2 0 0			
Carried forward £91 10 0. 53 13 6				Carried forward £107 0 0. 106 4 0			

Donations. Ann. Sub.						Donations. Ann. Sub.					
£. s. d. £. s. d.						£. s. d. £. s. d.					
Brought forward 107 0 0						Brought forward 215 8 0					
Harris, H., <i>Bradford</i>						Ransome, R., <i>Ipswich</i> (2 yrs.)					
Harris, Alfred, <i>ditto</i>						Rathmell's, the late Miss					
Harris, Sarah, <i>ditto</i>						Mary, (Legacy,) <i>Sheffield</i> , 90 0 0					
Harris, F.W., <i>London</i>						Rees, John, <i>Neath</i>					
Harvey, Thomas, <i>Youghal</i> ,						Richardson, Mary, <i>N. Shields</i> ,					
Harvey, Thomas, <i>Leeds</i>						Richardson, Hannah, <i>ditto</i> ,					
<i>Helston Anti-Slavery Soc.</i>						Richardson, W., <i>Sunderland</i>					
Heisch, Mrs., <i>Kennington</i>						Rickman, the late John,					
Holmes, William, <i>Alton</i>						<i>Wellingham</i>					
Horsnail, W. C., <i>Stroud</i>						Rose, Mrs. Ann, <i>Coalbrook-</i>					
Horsnail, C. <i>Canterbury</i>						<i>dale</i>					
Hicks, C., <i>Halstead</i>						Rowntree, Joseph, <i>York</i>					
Hill, J., <i>Earlcolne</i>						Rowntree, W. <i>Scarborough</i> ,					
Hunt, Henry, <i>Bristol</i>						Russell, Robert, <i>Jamaica</i>					
Isaac, J. C., <i>Liskeard</i>						<i>Saffron Walden Ladies'</i>					
Janson, William, <i>Tottenham</i> ,						<i>Anti-Slavery Association</i> ,					
Jessup, James, <i>Sudbury</i>						Scarr, Hannah, <i>York</i>					
Jowitt, Benjamin, <i>Carlton</i> ,						Seeking, J.R. <i>Birmingham</i> ,					
Jones, Rev. J., <i>Blackheath</i> ,						Silver, Miss, <i>Woodbridge</i>					
Kenway, G. B., <i>Birmingham</i> ,						Sims, W., <i>Ipswich</i> (2 yrs.)					
King, Samuel, <i>ditto</i>						Shewell, J. T. <i>ditto</i>					
King, Henry, <i>Rochdale</i>						Shorthouse, Joseph, <i>Bir-</i>					
Kinsmans, Miss J. G. <i>De-</i>						<i>mingham</i>					
<i>vonport</i>						Shorthouse, Rebecca, <i>ditto</i> ,					
Kitton, Rev. J., <i>Hutton</i>						Smith's Church, <i>Demerara</i> ,					
Knight, Henry, <i>Swansea</i>						per Rev. E. A. Wall-					
Knott, Thomas, <i>Exeter</i>						<i>bridge</i>					
Laishley, George, <i>Hamp-</i>						Snowden, Ann, <i>Bradford</i>					
<i>stead</i>						Southall, T., <i>Birmingham</i>					
Lefroy, the late Mr. (Legacy)						Southall, William, <i>ditto</i>					
<i>Basingstoke</i>						Southall, Ann, <i>Leominster</i>					
Letchworth, Thomas, <i>Exeter</i>						Spence, Joseph, <i>York</i>					
Lillycrop, Samuel, <i>Windsor</i>						Spence, J.T. & F. N. <i>Shields</i> ,					
Linstant, Baron de <i>Pradine</i> ,						Squire, J. H., <i>Amswell</i>					
<i>Haiti</i>						Stansfield, John, <i>Bradford</i> ,					
<i>Liskeard Ladies' Anti-</i>						Sterry, Henry, <i>London</i>					
<i>Slavery Association</i>						Sterry, Richard, <i>Croydon</i>					
Lloyd, Samuel, <i>Birmingham</i> ,						Sterry, J., <i>Peckham Rye</i>					
Martin, Henry, <i>Chatham</i>						Stephenson, Ann, <i>Ipswich</i>					
Marett, Charles, <i>Southampton</i> ,						<i>Stoke Newington Ladies'</i>					
Massey, Catherine, <i>Spalding</i> ,						<i>Anti-Slavery Association</i> ,					
Masters, W. H., <i>London</i>						Stuart, Capt. C., <i>Canada</i>					
Moor, Rev. E., <i>Woodbridge</i>						Sturge, Joseph, <i>Birmingham</i> ,					
Morland, John, <i>Croydon</i>						Sturge, Charles, <i>ditto</i>					
Newman, W. H., <i>Southampton</i> ,						Sturge, Edmund, <i>ditto</i>					
Norris, W., <i>Coalbrookdale</i> ,						Tatham, M.A., <i>Headingley</i> ,					
Norris, W. G., <i>ditto</i>						Tatum, William, <i>Rochester</i> ,					
Norton, W., <i>Woodbridge</i>						Taylor, Rev. H., <i>Woodbridge</i> ,					
Norton Mrs., <i>ditto</i>						Thompson, F. J., <i>Bridgwater</i> ,					
Ogilvie, J., <i>North Shields</i> ,						Thompson, Mrs., <i>ditto</i>					
Palk, Alderman, <i>Southampton</i> ,						Thompson, J., <i>Fordingbridge</i> ,					
Palmer, George, <i>Reading</i>						Thornton, C. G., <i>London</i>					
Pease, J. B. <i>Darlington</i>						Toll, Miss Mary, <i>Woodbridge</i> ,					
Pease Edward, <i>ditto</i>						Tregelles, N., <i>Tottenham</i>					
Pease, Thomas, <i>Bristol</i>						Veale, J. E., <i>St. Austle</i>					
Peck, Richard, <i>Kingsbridge</i>						Veale, Richard, <i>ditto</i>					
Peck, James, <i>London</i>						Viner, Mary, <i>Bath</i>					
Peile, George, <i>Whitehaven</i> ,						Webster, The Rev. W. E.,					
Pim, John, <i>Dublin</i>						<i>Woodbridge</i>					
Pow, Robert, <i>North Shields</i> ,						Wilkey, J. F., <i>Exeter</i>					
Priestman, J. <i>Bradford</i>						Williams, Dr. Caleb, <i>York</i> ,					
Proctor, Joseph, <i>N. Shields</i> ,						Wheeler, Fred., <i>Rochester</i>					
Proctor, J. R., <i>ditto</i>						Young, J., <i>Chatham</i>					
Proud, Eliza, <i>Lewes</i>						Zachary, Thomas, <i>Stourport</i> ,					
Randal, E. M., <i>Southampton</i>						Zachary, Daniel, <i>ditto</i>					
Carried forward £215 8 0						Total £336 4 1					